March, 1991

Volume XXII Number 2

FREE



It can be a long, lonely wait for a bus in the Potrero Hill area, as the above scene at 16th Street and Potrero Avenue shows. See story below.

Ruth Possen photo

Hospital Parking Garage Gets EIR Funding O.K.

By Cecily Burt

After months of delays, the City has chosen Orion Environmental Associates to perform an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the site of the proposed San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) parking garage at 23rd and Utah Streets.

Department of Parking and Traffic Coordinator Tim Johnson said the search for the EIR consultant had taken longer than usual because of the San Francisco requirement that a city-based, minority-owned business be given priority for city jobs.

The Board of Supervisors Finance Committee released monies on Feb. 20 to fund the EIR consultant and to begin toxic cleanup of the site. Financing is provided by the Off-Street Parking Fund. Johnson said most of the toxic clean-up will be done by the Department of Public Health and could begin immediately. However, he added that it could

take as long as 12 - 14 months for completion and approval of the EIR.

A parking study prepared last year by Wilbur Smith and Associates indicated that a 1,200-car garage would be needed to handle parking demand at peak hours. However, at a neighborhood meeting Feb. 6, Johnson said that the capacity of the garage has not been determined. Another unresolved question is whether the garage site can handle additional uses, such as a childcare center.

While representatives from City Hall try to explain the delays, frustrated SFGH neighbors and employees alike fume over the lack of progress and express concern about the growing parking problems around the hospital.

Nearby resident Jack Moore said the situation has become steadily worse in the last 10 years. "The AIDS clinic and the growth of the hospital have contributed to a greater number of cars coming to the hospital," he pointed out. "There

(Continued on Page 5)

Potrero Library Staffing, Hours Threatened by Cuts

By Judy Baston

Potrero Ilill residents could suffer a drastic cutback in library hours, staffing and resource levels if a proposal to downgrade the Ilill's Branch Library into a Reading Center is successful.

The library system is anticipating at least a quarter-million dollar deficit for the coming year, and half that amount will likely be cut from the Branch Libraries' budget, while half will come from the Main Library's coffers.

Key to the branch budget reduction strategy is to turn three Neighborhood Branches into Reading Centers. Potrero Branch ranks third on the "short list" of five. First and second are Glen Park and Presidio; fourth and fifth are Park and Bernel

What would conversion to a Reading Center mean? There would be no full-time librarians; staff would include a library technician and pages. Hours would be cut—from the current 30 per week to 20 hours spread out over four days. And while Potrero's current book collection is close to 20,000 volumes, the average Reading Center shelves only from 7,000-12,000. In addition, Reading Centers house only a tiny, sclf-service reference collection.

In human terms, it would mean that a children's librarian might come once a week to put on a story hour for children, but that there would be no specialist in children's books at the Potrero Branch on a regular basis to encourage youthful reading tastes.

The cutback was revealed Feb. 26 in a memo to the Library Commission from Neel Parikh, Acting Chief of Branches, which listed Potrero and the other four neighborhood libraries "based on statistical evaluation and service definition." In terms of the number of books taken out, Potrero ranks 20th among the city's 26 branches; it ranks 21st out of 26th in materials used inside the library, the latter admittedly a statistic that is difficult to compile.

Also under consideration in evaluating the service reduction is "the distance of neighborhood libraries to the nearest branch library." The Potrero Branch is 1.72 miles to the Mission Branch. Another factor is the number of residents in the neighborhood branch service area, about 9,000 for Potrero Hill, considered small as far as branch libraries go.

lronically, although Potrero has for years had a relatively small collection and service population, its geographical isolation that has spared it from cutbacks other than reductions in hours. This time around, however, that may not be enough.

The transformation of three branches to Reading Centers, with the resulting cuts in staff, would mean that the staff from these branches could go to other branches in which vacancies occur, eliminating the need to hire additional librarians, and presumably saving \$125,000.

Potrero Hill residents are urged to make their views about the probable cutbacks known at three key meetings to be held in early March, emphasizes Branch Librarian, Kay Roberts.

On Tuesday, March 5 at 4:30 p.m. at the Luric Room of the Main Library, the Library Commission will meet to review this and other proposals. And at 7 p.m. that evening at the Mission Branch Library, 3359-24th Street, a Community Meeting will be held to discuss the 1991-92 budget update and possible service reductions.

A Special Library Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. in the Lurie Room of the Main Library to make decisions on the cuts.

After the Library Commission has made a recommendation, the issue will then move to the office of Mayor Art Agnos and the Board of Supervisors.

Three years ago, in Agnos' first-year budget, when other branches were slated for closure, opposition from those communities affected forced a turnaround by the hlayor.

Previous proposals to close or cut back on the Potrero Branch Library have been met with stiff community resistance, and were eventually jettisoned.

Muni Cutbacks, Rerouting Give Residents Headaches

By Cecily Burt

An older woman sat alone late one afternoon in a Muni kiosk in front of the Neighborhood Ilouse at the same time as employees of the Fashion Design Center sat waiting across the street from Such A Business. They all had one thing in common: interminable waits for buses that service Potrero Hill.

The woman was waiting for a #53 bus to take her into the Mission District to do her shopping. She must time her return just right because the last bus returning to Potrero Hill leaves the Mission District at 6:30 p.m. Service on the #53 line stops running at 7:15 p.m.

The women waiting near Such a Business ride on the #19 Polk bus, the line many riders claim has the worst service in the city. They had just missed a nearly-empty bus at 4:30 p.m.; the next crowded bus

did not reach the stop until 4:50 p.m.

"Out of everyone in my office, I have it easy," says Robyn Marquisse, an employee of Levi Strauss based at the new Fashion Center. "I only have to take one bus. It takes forever to get there, but it practically takes me to my door, all the way across town." Karen Schacht is not so lucky. She commutes from the South Bay via Caltrain, but there are no direct buses from the bottom of the hill to either of the train stations at 4th and Townsend or 22nd and Pennsylvania streets. From work it's a very long walk on busy streets without sidewalks.

Potrero Hill residents have a history of public transportation problems. In 1981, complaints about the noise and pollution from the #35 line struggling its way up DeHaro Street led to its rerouting. The line was a victim of Muni cutbacks in 1983.

Four different bus lines — the 19, 22,

53, and 48 — service parts of the Ilill, but the #53 stops running at 7:15 p.m.

In 1988, Muni's financial woes created many cutbacks. Consequently, the #47 line — one of the few buses in town that used to run by San Francisco General Hospital — was routed away from Potrero Avenue. Muni said the #9 and #33 lines replaced that service. Hill resident Jack Moore points out the irony in the fact that the 47 line stopped coming past General llospital while there is such a problem with parking around there. "We're trying to get rid of cars and Muni is moving in the opposite direction," he said.

Michael Crondach from Muni's service planning division said Muni began a route restructuring plan in 1977/78. The guiding principle was cross-town service. "In 1983 we looked at changing bus routes around. That was the first time we looked at changing the #47," he said. "The #48

replaced the service provided by the #35 line, but now it has a more cumbersome route; it loops back and forth, sort of like a horseshoe."

Crondach claimed that because of light ridership, Muni took away night service on the #53 line and curtailed mid-day service on the #48 line. Frequency of the #53 line was cut back to once every half hour when the #35 bus was running on the Hill. However, more frequent service was not restored when the #35 was discontinued.

The 1991 Muni Time Tables indicate the #19 bus runs every 15 minutes on weekdays and every 20 minutes on weekends. But many riders scoffed at the claim of such frequency and regularity.

Hill resident Augustus Ginnochio catches the #19 bus at the corner of

(Continued on Page 5)



IN OUR VIEW

Shortchanging the Future

Right up at the top of the list of those who will be hurt by Governor Pete Wilson's proposed budget are San Francisco's schoolchildren and the entire public school system itself. Anticipating massive cuts in Wilson's plan for state funding of the schools, San Francisco Superintendent of Schools Ramon Cortines has prepared a proposal to cut \$20 million from an already financially strapped school district. He admits it may be a worst case scenario, but at best, the school district in San Francisco would have to slash spending by \$2 million.

This is coming at a time when this city's schools are admittedly already in crisis, and at a time when many families who wish to remain in San Francisco are stretching their own budgets to find an alternative to the public schools for their children's edu-

Much of the public reaction to Cortines' plan has centered around the likely closing of Balboa High School. And while there may not be any such drastic effect on the schools in this neighborhood, the plan would indeed affect Potrero Hill schools in both specific and general ways.

Cortines is recommending that elementary school "newcomer centers" be relocated in existing schools. The Filipino Newcomer Center would transfer to the Bessie Carmichael site, but, Cortines notes, "some space is available" at the Hill's Daniel Webster and other schools, "if necessary, to prevent over-crowding at Bessie Carmichael." Would this, then, result in more crowded conditions at Daniel Webster?

At Vermont Street's International Studies Academy, the budget proposal notes, "they may have to suspend the double Social Science requirement" for the coming year. Under the \$20 million deficit reduction program, it appears that the school might be forced to shift from a six to five-period day.

A number of school programs would be eliminated or drastically reduced districtwide, which, of course, would include the schools in Potrero Ilill.

* At both the Middle School and High School level, there will be fewer counselors. and. Cortines admits, "there will be a substantial decrease in the individual interaction between counselor and student; most of the interaction would be in large group situations." What would this mean for a student who is having problems and simply needs someone to talk to - in confidence?

- Interscholastic sports programs would be completely suspended at both the Middle Schools and High Schools under the worst case scenario. Sports programs would still have to be curtailed if lesser cutbacks were made.
- The elementary school music programs during the school day would be suspended. with some Saturday music classes held at a number of school locations throughout the
- School libraries would only be open four days each week, and library technician positions would be completely eliminated.
- . The number of health workers in the school district would be even further re-

The future of our schoolchildren -- and our public schools -- is already in peril. Their future is ours, and federal and state cutbacks, which have helped spark such plans for reduction, shortchange and cheat all of us. And so the concern must belong to all of us as well.



Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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Why Potrero Assemblyman Voted "No" on War

By Judy Baston

Being in the minority when it comes to taking a stand against war is nothing new for Potrero Hill Assemblyman John

He participated in his first anti-war demonstration more than 27 years ago. when South Vietnam's Mme. Nhu spoke at the Sheraton Palace Hotel and only a small but determined band was protesting the U.S. War in Vietnam. A few years later, Burton and fellow San Francisco Assemblyman Willie Brown were among the first elected officials anywhere in the U.S. to vote against resolutions supporting the U.S. presence in

Burton, a longtime Potrero Hill resident, remembered this two decades later, after he was one of only four members of the State Assembly to vote against a resolution January 31 supporting "the actions of the President of the United States in the pursuit of a policy for the liberation of Kuwait."

There were a number of elements in the resolution that he supported, Burton stressed, such as "honoring the troops and deploring the bombing of Israel."

However, he noted that he could not support clauses "that claimed that Bush had done everything to avert this war, and that expressed support for Bush's policies." Burton proposed that the Assembly amend the resolution to eliminate the sections to which he objected. but his amendment was tabled and the Assembly voted 57-4 for the resolution as it was originally worded.

"It's simply bullshit that the resolution said it was right to go to war and that Bush had exhausted all other options. I didn't feel that he did," Burton irately noted. "Bush is reveling in the fact that he can beat the biggest guy on the block over there."

Noting that the Soviet Union's peace initiative never had a chance with Bush. Burton added that "the Soviets should have taken their proposal to the United Nations. We're in there under the color of authorization from the U.N., even though only Bush and Saddam really

"When the due bill comes to Congress for all the deals that were made, how many billions in American tax dollars will have to be spent for the deals we made to buy the U.N. Security Council votes?" the Hill Assemblyman asked.

Burton was joined in his vote against the resolution - authored by Newport Beach Republican Gil Ferguson - by three other Assembly members: East Bay Democrats Tom Bates and Barbara Lee, and Los Angeles Democrat Marguerite Archie-Hudson.



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LIBRARY NEWS POTRERO BRANCH 1616 20th St. 285-3022

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ADULT SERVICES

We are poised on the brink of the ground war as I write this, and regardess of what has happened by the time you read it, you may be looking for books on the Middle East. Judith Miller and Laurie Mylroie must have worked around the clock getting out their "instant book," 'Saddam Hussein and the Crisis in the Gulf." It's recommended as a guide explaining Hussein and the history of Iraq up to the present crisis.

As has been previously pointed out, we might be less involved in the Middle East if their major export was broccoli, so an inquiry into the history and politics of oil is in order. Luckily, Daniel Yergin has just completed his in-depth study on that subject - look for "The Prize."

News reporters often have an inside view they can't express in their usual limited time or space, and turn to books to let us know how it really looks to them. Thomas Friedman's "From Beirut to Jerusalem," based on his experiences in Israel and Lebanon, won the 1989 National Book Award. Charles Glass, a veteran correspondent who was held hostage for 62 days in Beirut before he escaped, has written "Tribes With Flags: A Dangerous Passage Through the Chaos of the Middle East." The hostage episode is a minor part of his book, which is described as a literate, erudite, leisurely stroll through the Middle East. It's similar to Friedman's, with a blend of personal anecdote but heavier on the

Tony Horwitz is a traveler, not a reporter, who has no qualms about putting himself in danger to get his stories. His good luck and sense of humor carried him through Israel and several Muslim countries in 1988/89. He describes his adventures in "Baghdad Without a Map and Other Misadventures in Arabia.'

If you're looking for a little less reality, we've just received James Webb's "Something to Die For," by a Vietnam vet whose many medals decorate the book jacket. Ilis novel describes war in the 1990s - a limited "peacetime" battle in a distant third world desert involving high technology weapons, intrigue, romance and global politics. Herbert Crowder's "Missile Zone," to be published in March, is described as adventure thriller featuring a sexy couple tracing terrorists from Jerusalem alleys to Baluchistan deserts.

You'll have to wait until April for the book suggested as the definitive study of the Arab peoples, Albert Hourani's "A History of the Arab Peoples." It's the first full-scale single volume history of the Arabic-speaking peoples of the Islamic world in decades, and covers Islam's rise in the Seventh century to

DO WE HAVE THESE BOOKS AT PO-TRERO BRANCH? Well, yes and no. Some have been ordered, some are out circulating, some may be available. But if you can't find the book you want, here's what to do: reserve it. Nothing new, but we are using a new reserve system, which better utilizes all the SFPL



system library's collections. All reserves for all branches and the main library are now on one waiting list. That means if Potrero's copy of "From Beirut to Jerusalem" was checked out yesterday you do not have to wait three weeks for someone (hopefully) to return it. Your request goes into the waiting line, and you get a copy when it's your turn, no matter which branch has the book. It means that books are travelling around a lot more, and that you will not wait as long for most books. The downside is that you might not be able to renew any title, new or old, if somebody, somewhere, wants to read it. So be sure to let us know if you're trying to renew once we have checked it in, it must go on if there is a reserve on it.

ANYTHING ELSE NEW AT THE LI-BRARY? Yes, bleak news as usual on the budget. There will be public meetings on "possible reductions in service" held at Mission Branch, Tuesday night, March 5, at 7p.m., and at Richmond Branch on Thursday night, March 7, at 7p.m. You can pick up an agenda flyer

WILL THERE STILL BE BRANCH LIBRARIES WHEN THE NEW MAIN IS BUILT? Yes, Virginia, there will always be branch libraries. A new main library will improve delivery of books and information to all the branches. I think Mayor Agnos was kidding when he said branches might someday be obsolete. (February Potrero View, page 1).

Kay Roberts Branch Librarian

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST: One way to cope with all the myriad ways of explaining the war against lraq to children is to start with teaching them about the people of the Middle East. The library system owns several books for children that may help them understand the various cultures of the countries surrounding the Persian Gulf. Some of these include: "Gavriel and Jamal: Two Boys of Jerusalem," by Brent Ashabrenner, portrays the lives of a Palestinian Arab and Jewish boy who both live in Jerusalem, for ages 10 and up. "Digging to the Past: Excavations in Ancient Lands," by John W. llackwell is an introduction to archaeology set in the Middle East, for ages 10 and up. "The Day of Ahmed's Secret," by Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland tells the story of a boy in Cairo who eagerly tells his parents the news that he has learned how to write his name, for ages "A hand rull of Stars" by Kalik Schami is a coming-of-age novel about a Christian boy in Damascus, Syria, for ages 12 and up.

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT THE LIBRARY: Bring the whole family to hear Hill resident Lee Kerwin tell stories in celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, March 13 at 7p.m. Lee has a background in teaching, acting and playwriting. He plans to tell some original as well as traditional Irish tales.

FILMS FOR PRESCHOOLERS: Films for preschoolers will be shown at 9:15 and 10a.m. on Tuesday, March 12. This program will include "Little Blue, Little Yellow," "Madeline," and "Madeline's

STORYTIME: The infant/toddler lapsit (for ages 0-3yrs.) will meet every Wednesday at 1:30p.m. Preschool storytime (for ages 3-5) will meet every Tuesday at 10a.m. and family storytime (for all ages) will meet every Wednesday at 7p.m.

Cathy Nyhan Children's Librarian

The View

LIVING PROBLEMS AND JOYS OF POTRERO HILL

"A roundtable discussion" on the subject noted above "was recorded at the neighborhood House and re-played over station KPFA" according to a front page story in the March, 1981 VIEW. The participants included Paulette Fazon, Enola Maxwell, Jim Queen, Bob Bradford, Jim Firth, and Ida Duncan.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

That was the headline over a story about one of those rare and precious community victories, this one featured Potrero Hill's Davids against the Goliath of PG&E. "Assemblyman Art Agnos hosted a party for the many individuals and representatives of organizations who were active in the successful effort to prevent PG&E from expanding its power plant on Potrero Hill." Joan Tricamo, then president of the Potrero Hill Homeowners and Residents, was singled out for particular praise.

OTHER TEN-YEAR-OLD MATTERS

Neighbors mourned the death of Hill resident, political activist and teacher Brownie Lee Jones . . . Enola Maxwell, Jim Herman, and Art Agnos wrote culogies to Ella Hill Hutch, who had recently died. Hutch was the first Black woman to be elected to the City's Board of Supervisors . . . "Tell Me A Riddle," the movie based on San Francisco author Tillie Olsen's novella, was reviewed in the VIEW on the occasion of its preview at the Cannery Theater. Potrero Hill's Winifred Mann was one of the players in the highly-regarded film . . . A Jon Greenberg photo showed Tommos Draper and Kevin Chilton going up for jump shots at the Rec . . . Poposi Sikoti was honored for winning first place in the 600-yard run for Seventh grade boys at the

- Arden Arnautoff

Nabe's Hayes Honored as Unsung Hero

lle's tall and spare in appearance, quiet, soft-spoken and unassuming in attitude. He's a familiar figure and mainstay at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood llouse. And on Feb. 24 he was one of ten San Franciscans honored as an "Unsung Hero" at an African American llistory celebration hosted by the Western Addition and Bayview/Anna E. Waden Branches of the city's public library.

Originally from Washington, D.C., Hayes had a successful career as a photographer on the East Coast but decided to opt for a more productive life working with young people. Ile moved west and finally settled in San Francisco. A chance meeting, 17 years ago, with Enola D. Maxwell, Director of the Neighborhood House, turned into a job counseling and teaching photography to youth and others on Potrero Hill.

Besides working as a teacher of photography, Hayes has become much more in his relationship with this community. He is a counselor and friend to all who use the Nabe, and he is the neighborhood listener — calm, and never too busy or disinterested. Those with a problem seek



him out. In the words of those who nominated Hayes, "he is a gem because he cares when it is most important and

Hayes works long hours at his job, and often returns from home late at night to monitor and close the building after an evening's activities. He makes weekly trips to the Food Bank to purchase food which is then distributed to Hill residents.

At the award ceremony, Hayes modestly described himself as "just a link in a chain - our staff is a family of friends who work for the community."

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080

Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

Youth Council Meetings - Wed., 6 p.m.
Girls Club Meetings - Mon., 5-7 p.m.
Omega Boys Club Meetings - Ist & 3rd Thur..., 7:30 p.m.
Every Tues., 7:30 p.m.
Tues., 5-7 p.m.

Study Hall Juvenile Diversion Tutorial Program Job Referral Al-Anon

Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 p.m. Sat., 6-7 p.m. Alcohol Anonymous Cocaine Anonymous

Social Development Center: For developmentally disabled adults. Basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer and heaith education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, leisure time use, group and individual counseling. Senior Citizens Program: Hot lunches every weekday (at small cost). Activities include - bingo games, information and referral, counseling, social hour, games and recreation.
Classes: Photography, Arts & Crafts.
Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre (cost, \$5-7 per performance).

Facilities:

Meeting spaces available for use by community groups Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops Gymnasium and recreational space Photographic workshop

Bulletin board with job and events listings Child Development Center (for pre-school children)

All services and activities FREE • Member, United Way of the Bay Area



Leo Sykes teaches literacy classes in the mornings at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. A San Francisco Community College teacher, Sykes is encouraged by the progress made by his adult students. Vos Arnoutoff photo

Nabe Literacy Classes: Hope for Non-Readers

Among the diverse programs offered to adults at the Potrero Ilill Neighborhood llouse is the literacy classes that meet Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 a.m.

Geared to prepare students for gainful employment, the classes are sponsored by the Private Industry Council (PIC) and taught by Leo Sykes, 55, of the Community College District's GED program. Under Syke's tutelage, the dozen or so students currently enrolled receive a great deal of personal attention, and some, he says, make amazing leaps in progress.

woman who was a non-reader last October. She's now at about the sixth grade level. Sykes credits "tremendous effort and persistence" on her part, but he also points out that adults bring to class with them a "spoken vocabulary which makes it easier for them than for children, who start with a clean slate." Once the connection between the spoken and written is recognized, progress can be dramatie.

Students may enroll in the class at any time. Call the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 826-8080.

- V.A.

PG&E Plans to Reduce Aging Gas Pipes on South, East Sides of Hill

Residents on the southern slope and eastern side of Potrero Hill - Rhode Island between 25th and 20th, and 20th between Rhode Island and Pennsylvania streets - should be prepared for construction crews tearing up streets as they replace aging gas pipelines from April 1 - November.

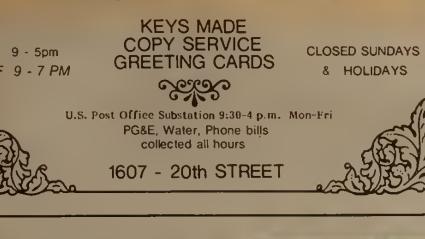
In 1985, the California Public Utilities Commission approved a 20 year program to upgrade the pipes in San Francisco, as well as other cities in PG&E's service territory. This replacement process will "ensure future natural gas service reliability," a PG&E spokesperson says. The upgrading is designed to make the utility system more resistant and flexible

and better able to withstand earthquake and ground movement stresses, he added. Residents should anticipate noise, traffic restrictions and other inconveniences during the process, although PG&E representatives indicate they hope to minimize any botherment.

In an effort to insure that the pipeline replacement work doesn't come as a shock to Hill residents, PG&E representatives are inviting the general public to attend an informational meeting at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 Dellaro St., on March 20 at 7 p.m. If you can't attend the meeting but have questions, call PG&E Customer Assistance at 824-7367.







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Park-for-Pay Plans Ire S.F. General Employees

Employees of San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) have more than a lack of a new parking garage to think about. They may soon be asked to pay for the privilege of parking inside hospital grounds.

A paid parking plan proposed by hospital administrators, and opposed by hospital employees, calls for conversion of approximately 100 spaces on the SFGH site to monthly parking, and approximately 181 spaces to \$1 per hour lots.

llospital parking committee spokesperson Ed Walera said all parking would be converted to paid parking once the garage is built. The hospital plans to use income from the parking programs to fund mass transit items such as the discontinued shuttle service between the hospital and BART.

Employees say they should not be charged for parking on hospital grounds until the long-awaited parking garage at 23rd and Utah Streets is available.

According to Ed Kinchley of United Public Employees Local 790, more than 1,200 signatures have been collected on petitions circulated among hospital employees. Opposing the interim paid parking plan put forth by hospital administrators, Kinchley has requested a meeting with City Public Health Director Raymond Baxter to discuss employees' concerns before Baxter submits the plan to the City Health Commission for approval.

"Anytime the hospital proposes changes that affect working conditions, we should have the opportunity to meet and confer in a good faith attempt to reach an agreement," Kinchley stressed. He added that he heard Baxter had pulled the parking plan from the Health Commission's January agenda, but there had been no

further word on developments. Baxter could not be reached for comment.

Employees are concerned that the 100 monthly parking spaces would be allocated among the hospital "elite." According to the parking plan distributed to hospital employees, a panel comprised of executive staff, medical staff, and the parking committee will decide who gets chosen for monthly parking privileges.

Top priority for the monthly spots would go to 61 employees who currently hold reserved parking spaces. The remaining 39 spaces would be allocated by the panel.

SFGH employee and parking committee member Frank Cubias said monthly parking spaces would be set at around \$40 per month while regular employees forced to park in the \$1 per hour lots could expect to pay an average \$160 per month. "They'll be sitting pretty while those who are least able to afford it are forced to pay more," he charged.

Walera said the \$1 hourly lots are really not intended for daytime employee use, but rather for employees who work nights so they don't have to walk so far to their cars in the dark.

Employees were told that only two areas would be converted to paid parking — the lot in front of the main hospital on 23rd Street and a section bordering 23rd Street and Potrero Avenue — until the garage is completed. But Walera indicated other areas could be converted sooner if feedback is positive.

Once construction begins on the SFGH Mental Health facility in January 1992, other parking spaces inside a lot bordering 22nd Street and Potrero Avenue will also be lost.

— С.В.



Parking spaces on San Francisco General Hospital grounds (above) are at a premium, and drivers park wherever they ean.

Ruth Possen photo

Hospital Parking Garage Gets EIR Funding O.K.

(Continued from Page 1)

are thousands of employees, plus 1,000 to 1,500 people a day who show up at the clinics. The parking lots hold approximately 500 cars, so the streets handle everything else."

Moore also noted that feelings between area residents and the City have been icy since planning for the new SFGH Mental Health facility steamed ahead while garage planning stalled. Now the City is being pressured by irate residents and hospital employees to play catch-up.

Groundbreaking for the Mental Health facility is scheduled for January 1992, at least a year before construction could possibly begin on the garage. The location of the facility — in the middle of a 220-space parking lot — will displace 75 parking spaces once construction is completed, and probably even more during construction because of heavy equipment and building materials.

Hill resident Liz Killian, who said she felt "hoodwinked" by the garage stall, is one of many vocal residents who would

like to see the Department of Parking and Traffic come up with a implementation schedule so progress, or lack of it, can be monitored.

For Killian, who lives and works within two blocks from SFGH, parking is a nightmare. "If you have to get in your car and run an errand, even for five minutes, your space will be gone when you get back," she said.

Both Killian and Moore would like to see the city eventually approve residential permit parking, but Johnson has made it clear that can't happen before the garage is built and hospital employees have an alternative to parking on the streets.

Mayor Art Agnos took a special interest in the garage project after facing angry protesters at the UCSF/SFGH 100-year partnership anniversary celebration in October

Agnos turned the project over to the Parking and Traffic Authority and designated former legislative aide Johnson as the project leader, replacing Walera, who still handles parking issues on the SFGH grounds.

Muni Cutbacks, Rerouting Give Hill Residents Headaches

(Continued from Page 1)

20th and Rhode Island Streets, a five-block walk from his home down the Hill, for the ride to his job at 10th and Mission Streets. "The service is miserable, one of the worst lines in the city," he said. "I don't have a car, so I've ridden them all. It's not so bad in the morning, but in the evening every other bus only runs to Mission Street and does not complete the whole route to the Ilill," he explained. "Even during rush hour I have to wait anywhere between 15 and 25 minutes."

According to the Muni Time Tables,

the #48 line runs every 10-20 minutes during the week. The line does a turnaround at 23rd and Kansas Streets, providing less frequency of service to 20th and Kansas. The #53 runs every half hour until service stops at 7:15 p.m. The #22 runs every 6-8 minutes until mid-day, then it runs every 15-20 minutes.

But reality does not always correspond with the best-laid plans. Mauri Schwartz lives on the Ilill and has given up taking public transportation to work. "I used to work at Market and Montgomery Streets and it would take 35 to 55 minutes or longer to get there by bus," she said.

"Now I drive to work near Broadway and the Embarcadero and it takes 15 minutes. If I were to take public transportation, I would have to take two buses and then take a very long walk."

San Francisco General llospital ran a fairly successful shuttle after the earthquake, ferrying people back and forth from the 24th Street BART station, but budget cuts caused its demise last Fall. Hospital spokesperson Ed Walera said income derived from a proposed paid parking plan (See story Page 5) will go in part to fund a shuttle service for employees. Ilowever, until the plan is approved, employees must take the #48 bus to and from BART.

But Liz Killian, who lives near the hospital, says she rarely takes public transportation since the #47 stopped coming down Potrero Avenue. "As far as taking a bus to BART, it's quicker to walk because the bus just never comes," she said. "I wouldn't want to walk from BART to the hospital at 6 a.m., and I wouldn't want to stand and wait for the bus at night. It's just not safe."

Muni director Peter Strauss said he anticipates no changes in service to Potrero Hill in the near future, but admits anything could happen if budgetary problems continue.

He said if and when the Mission Bay development gets under way, Muni plans to route the #30 Stockton bus through Mission Bay and up the base of Potrero Ilill to intersect with the #22 Fillmore at Connecticut Street. However, Strauss said he does not foresec these changes until several years down the road.





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Starr King Park - A Seven Year Dream Unfulfilled

By Vas Arnautoff

Ask any 50 Potrero Hill residents about Starr King Park and you're likely to get 49 blank stares. Indeed, that the expanse of carth and weeds on Carolina Street directly across from Starr King School is even designated a "park" must come as a surprise to the Hill dwellers who have seen the site.

Yet, it officially is, and its Board of Directors is still struggling to make of the weedy patch what its founders envisioned in 1984.

Starr King Park was created when the Barratt Corporation constructed the Parkview Heights housing development on the south slope of Potrero Hill in the early '80s. A part of the agreement was that a portion of the site be maintained as open space. The land was set aside, a \$70,000 annuity fund for its maintenance was established, and a Board of Directors composed of interested citizens was elected.

In its early meetings under its first president Gary Weinberg, the Board developed grading, landscaping and irrigation plans with a view to making the park "aesthetically appealing from all sides" and "suitable for passive recreation". The park was to be "maintained with native and non-native plants in an informal setting appropriate to the microclimate."

That the plans have not been fulfilled is the result of factors that the Board of Directors did not forsce.

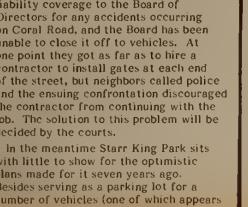
One is a lack of water. According to Nick Van Riesen, current Board president. the City from the very start has not allotted any water for the project. Irrigation plans had to be shelved, and attempts to plant native foliage and ground cover failed when volunteers found themselves unable to keep hauling enough water to the site to get hardy plants established. About a dozen gum trees have survived and are now 15 to 20 feet tall, but that is about all.

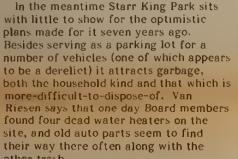
Another major stumbling block in the Board's plans is an on-going dispute with a neighbor over a short paved street which curves into the park off Carolina Street. The street, Coral Road, has been used as vehicular access to the rear of some houses that abut the park's west boundary, and as a parking place for teachers at Starr King School.

Insurance companies have refused liability coverage to the Board of Directors for any accidents occurring on Coral Road, and the Board has been unable to close it off to vehicles. At one point they got as far as to hire a contractor to install gates at each end of the street, but neighbors called police and the ensuing confrontation discouraged the contractor from continuing with the job. The solution to this problem will be decided by the courts.

with little to show for the optimistic plans made for it seven years ago. Besides serving as a parking lot for a number of vehicles (one of which appears to be a derelict) it attracts garbage, both the household kind and that which is more-difficult-to-dispose-of. Van Riesen says that one day Board members found four dead water heaters on the site, and old auto parts seem to find their way there often along with the

An election for members of the Board of Directors for Starr King Park is slated to be held in the near future, although the date has not yet been set. Van Riesen hopes that younger people will become involved. "The main requirement," he says "is dedication to open







The sight at Starr King Park looking north. Plans to make the seven-year-old space across the street from Starr King School on Carolina Street into a neighborhood attraction have been held up by unforseen snags.

Vus Armoutoff photo







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Potrero Hill Volunteers "Get More Than They Give" By Pitching in at Nearby Martin de Porres House

By Peter Firth

The Martin de Porres House of Ilospitality on Potrero Avenue near 15th Street is a good deal more than a soup kitchen.

At Martin's — as staff, volunteers and guests alike fondly call it — you don't see bowls of soup lined up impersonally on the counter. Each bowl is filled by a volunteer, then handed to the guest with eye contact, a smile, and perhaps a word or two. In spite of the extra second or two this takes, the line flows quickly and with a certain grace.

"Just as important as feeding these people is to reinforce their feelings that they haven't slipped through the cracks of humanity," stresses Martin's Director Barbara, who asked that only her first name be used.

Although Martin's has some full-time staff, such as Barbara and others, it is primarily volunteers who serve the soup, chop the vegetables, write the letters and otherwise help keep the facility going. And with Martin's a nearby neighbor of Potrero Hill, a number of Hill residents are among the volunteer crew.

John Cooper volunteers at Martin's two mornings a week. The retired head of Special Education at a local high school and longtime Texas Street resident is a crew supervisor on one of those mornings and a worker on the other.

"It's hard work, but there is a meditative quality to the repetitive task of chopping vegetables. . .a physical mantra," Cooper muses. "I'm meeting a human need while at the same time my needs are being met. And there is no question that I'm getting more out of this than I'm giving."

Nina Gershater is a nurse who has lived on Arkansas Street for many years. She retired from San Francisco General Hospital after having had a heart attack seven years ago. She works one morning a week at Martin's, and would like to do more, but acknowledges she is now helping to the limit of her physical ability.

"The caring demonstrated by the staff and volunteers for each other as well as for the guests makes this a very special place," she says. "It's made a great difference in my life, and the people we serve are so appreciative of what we do."

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Many volunteers, Martin's Director Barbara notes, "feel that each day is a success." She adds that "some volunteers who have been afraid of being in situations with street people no longer have that fear. They come to view as we do, that we are all part of the human family."

She admits, however, that "some volunteers don't last too long. They become discouraged because this is hard work and we deal with an inordinate amount of human suffering. Some expect more to happen, more changes to become apparent. But this world of Martin's is the antithesis of our world's view of success. We measure our successes in small increments."

Both staff and volunteers put a lot of effort into creating the ambience that makes Martin's a beacon of light in these dark times. The atmosphere in the large,

partially-covered courtyard and adjacent building, which houses a full restaurant kitchen, indoor eating area, offices and showers, is busy, yet comfortable and caring, like a family home.

There is a rock garden in the courtyard and many plants, plenty of benches outside and under the covered area, where people are free to spend time before or after the meals.

In addition to a nutritious meal, the guests -- mostly homeless -- arriving for breakfast or lunch have available a hot shower, perhaps a better pair of shoes or a coat, an address for receiving mail, and what Martin's calls "advocacy."

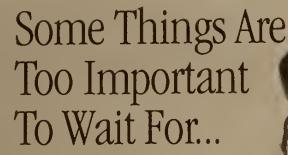
The latter takes place when a volunteer is asked for help, or notices a need and offers help with a medical or financial problem, or helps the guest deal with a bureaucracy such as food stamp or Social

Security qualification, or simply takes some time to talk.

It's crucial, Barbara emphasizes, for Martin's to have a core of dependable volunteers. "We have an interconnecting circle of workers of all ages and backgrounds to fill 11 shifts a week," she notes, but, she adds, "Volunteers' situations change, and sometimes we are severely short-handed, which can create tension and is reflected in our guests, who are hard pressed to understand what is

are hard pressed to understand what is going on in our world and theirs."

She urges anyone who can volunteer on a steady basis, for four hours per week to call her at 553-0250, or to come in person to 225 Potrero Avenue. Canned foods, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, towels and tax-deductible contributions are also much appreciated.





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HILL WOMEN CELEBRATE





International Women's Flag Day was celebrated at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House during the 1950s. A gathering of different nationalities and their flags symbolized the way that nations can work together. The names of those on the stage are unknown, so if readers can identify anyone, please contact the Potrero Archives Project at the Branch Library, 285-3022. Photographer unknown, but the photo was lent to the archives by Hazel Rudometkin.



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Hopes are running high for an Academy Award documentary nominee to bring the 'Oscar" home to the Bay Area. "Forever Activists" tells the story of veterans of the Spanish Civil War's Abraham Lincoln Brigade and their continuing fight for causes of freedom and social justice. Hill composer Randy Craig, formerly of the S.F. Mime Troupe, worked on the film. Craig has already won a Bay Area Critic's Circle Award for Best Original Music score for "Ripped Van Winkle," and received an Obic for "Seeing Double," both scores for Mime Troupe productions. Work on "Forever Activists" included much research for Craig and his partners Bruce Barthol and Yasha Aginsky, into music of the 1930s era, and arrangements and instrumentation with a series of different instruments than were used in those days. Judith Montell directed and produced "Activists."

Women's History Month is officially recognized by the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Heritage Museum with a display in the City Hall Rotunda opening at noon March 5. The exhibit continues through March 15 and is free to the public. March is being observed as Women's History Month throughout the Nation. For more info call 558-3653.

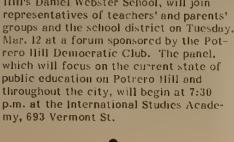
Two Potrero Hill athletes are listed among the top five scorers on the Delaware State College women's basketball team. Statistics for the first 21 games show the Hill's Shervon Hunter on top with a 16.4 point average. Sabrina Allen is number five, scoring 7.5 points per

The Community Music Center will register new students for the Spring 1991 quarter on Mar. 29, from 3-7 p.m., and on Mar. 30, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Mission District facility, 544 Capp St. Spring classes begin April 8 and run through July l. Curriculum includes group classes, performing ensembles and private instruction in voice and over 25 instruments. Subjects cover music theory and ear training to Chinese music. Tuition fees for all Music Center programs are based on a sliding scale. For more info call 647-6015.



The Omega Boys Club, located in the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, is planning their Spring Tour of Black Coll eges and Universities March 9-14, and is looking for sponsors to each help at least one club member on the tour. The Omega group has successfully helped innercity youth in a drug-free program with an emphasis on education, and a goal of helping them get to college. In its four short years of existence, the club has placed 92 young people in schools around the country, all of whom are supported by the club's scholarship fund. The college tour provides high school seniors with a firsthand preview of the collegiate experience. Sponsorship of each student on the tour costs \$800 -- but any donation is welcome. For more info call 826-8664.

Willie Santamaria, Principal of Potrero Hill's Daniel Webster School, will join representatives of teachers' and parents' Mar. 12 at a forum sponsored by the Potrero Hill Democratic Club. The panel. which will focus on the current state of public education on Potrero Hill and throughout the city, will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the International Studies Acade-





Year's symbol

International Women's Day, Mar. 8, is celebrated at the Women's Bldg.; 3543 - 18th St. with a program of information and discussion on the impact of the Persian Gulf war on women, and building the anti-war movement. The event takes place at 8 p.m. Childcare, sign and Spanish translation is available with 48 hr. notice. Call 431-1180.

Former Potrero Hill Middle School principal Thomas J. Sammon, now Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of San Francisco Schools, is being honored March 9 for his 39 years of dedicated service to the children of this city, both as a teacher and as an administrator. The 1991 Dr. Edward J. Griffin award will be given him at a dinner hosted by the University of San Francisco Education Alumni Assn.

A free informational series for seniors is offered at the Salvation Army Senior Center, 360 - 4th St., from 10 a.m.-noon. On Mar. 7 two speakers give consumer advice; and on Mar. 21 the subject is "The Future of Health Care" for seniors, asking whether National Health Care is the answer. Lunch will be available at a cost of \$1.25. This program is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Federation of Retired Union Members and the Labor Studies Program of the S.F. Community College District.

Renowned author and a leading critic of U.S. foreign policy Noam Chomsky will speak on "Unfinished Business: the U.S. and Central America" Sunday, Mar. 17 at the Victoria Theater, 2961 - 16th St. in S.F. The event benefits Barricada Internacional. The cost is a sliding scale of \$6-10. Advance tickets are available at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. Or call 621-8981 for more info.

Two public forums on perspectives on the war in the Gulf sponsored by San Francisco Greens take place at New College, 777 Valencia St. Three speakers on Mar. 14 will talk and lead a discussion on Jewish, Arab and feminist perspectives on the Gulf war; and the "Urgent Need for a National Energy Policy Now" takes place Mar. 28. A sliding scale donation of \$3-10 is requested at the door.

The San Francisco Police Dept. is asking citizens' help to report serious incidents hy calling the 911 emergency telephone number. Unfortunately, many of the ealls now being received are of a nonemergency nature. It is important to remember that 9H is for emergencies only. meaning situations requiring the immed iate presence of a police officer, firefighter or paramedic. For example: If you hear gunshots, or a loud explosion: if you see smoke or fire coming from a building; if you see someone who is injur ed or bleeding call 911. The non-emergency numbers for police, fire and medi cal services are: Police, 553 0123; Fire, 861 8000; Paramedics, 554-2900.

MAD Magazine cartoonist, Sergio Aragones, will appear as the Guest Artist in Residence at the Cartoon Art Museum. 665 - 3rd St. in San Francisco, Saturday. Mar. 9, from 1-4 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

RAE ROMANOWSKI May, 1926 - February, 1991 She played a "mean" washboard

IN MEMORIAM

ROSEMARY SAWYER Navember, 1957 - February, 1991

IN MEMORIAM

RHODA DENNEY 1943 - 1991

A memorial service will be held at the Patrero Hill Neighborhood House 953 De Haro Street Sunday, March 3, 1991 2 P.M.

IN MEMORIAM

FRANK RICHARD GARCIA November, 1960 - February, 1991





WAR & PEACE FOREVER



Mike Rios, Artist-in-Residence at the Potrero Ilill Neighborhood House, was one of 20 Northern California artists who answered a Mexican Museum call for artistic answers to the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf. On January 23, the Museum hastily gathered canvases, paints, brushes, and other materials for the artists who worked from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the front of the Museum at Ft. Mason. Rios' painting, "War and Peace Forever," is n 6' x 4' acrylic canvas. All of the works will be on exhibit at Galeria de la Raza, 24th and Bryant Streets, from March 15 - April 13. Wolfgong Dietze photo

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'Macbeth' to Open March 15 at Nabe

A multi-cultural production of William Shakespeare's tragedy. "Macbeth" is the Spring presentation at the Potrero Hill Theatre, 953 De Haro Street, opening March 15.

Directed by Paul Roach, the cast includes some familiar actors who have appeared in productions at the Hill

Theatre over the past few years. Playing the leading roles of Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and Banquo are Baby Martello, Kaye Elizabeth and John Doyle.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. through April 6. General admission is \$9. For more information call the box office



PANDORA'S MYTH



Dance Brigade presents "Pandora's Box" at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St., March 29-30, and April 5-7, at 8 p.m. The premiere of this evening-length work is based on the myths of women's sexuality, the power of women and the right to control their own bodies. Call 465-3686 for more information. Dovid Moung photo

DUTCHMAN



Amiri Baraka's two character play, "Dutchman," opens at the 1800 Square Feet Theatre, 719 Clementina St., March 8. The play, directed by Vern Henderson, stars through March 30 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4-8 on a sliding scale. For more info

Joime Smith photo





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Youth Track Training Registration Opens Mar. 2

The Billy Hutton Track opens its sixth season of training and competition with registration at the San Francisco State University (SFSU) track on Saturday, March 2, from 10a.m. - noon.

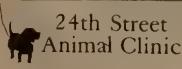
Operating as a project of the Tides Foundation, a San Francisco nonprofit organization, the Billy Hutton Track Club provides a unique opportunity for Bay Area boys and girls ages 7-15 to compete in age-group track and field. The Club offers five months of daily instruction and workouts, quality coaching, and supervised travel to regional, district, and national competitions. No previous track experience is necessary,











Joseph A. Killian, D.V.M.

285-9300 2400 - 24th Street and new members in the 7-9 age group are especially encouraged.

Club dues for the March-July season are \$75 per child, which represents only a small fraction of the Club's cost of sponsoring an athlete. A reduction or waiver of the Club dues may be granted in cases of need.

Daily practices from 4:30-6p.m. begin at SFSU track on March 4. Meets begin in April. The program, coached by Gary Bluth and Officer Billy Ray Smith (assigned from the Potrero Station, San Francisco Police Dept.), concludes at the end of July with the Club's participation in the country's most competitive youth track meet - the TAC Junior Olympic Nationals, to be held this year in North Carolina. At the Nationals last season, 12 of the Club's young athletes were finalists.

Membership in TAC (the governing body for track and field in the United States) is required for all BHTC members. The TAC fee is \$12 and includes primary/ secondary insurance for athletes during practices, traveling to and from meets, and competing in TAC meets. Registrants are also required to submit a copy of their birth certificate and to sign the Club's Code of Conduct contract. For additional information please call 668-1329.

CITY FINALISTS



Potrero Hill Recreation Center's II yr. and Under Basketball Team heads for the city finals after completing a 5-0 Division Record. The team above includes (kneeling 1/r): Michael Marshall, Darrious York, Jimmy Ilickman, Anthony Monroe, Jesse Turner, Cedric, Bernard Hayes. Standing (l/r): Tarell Cato, Shawn Coleman, Erika Woodson, Mona Lockhart, Al Johnson, Coach Jon Greenberg. Team member Chris Kelley is not











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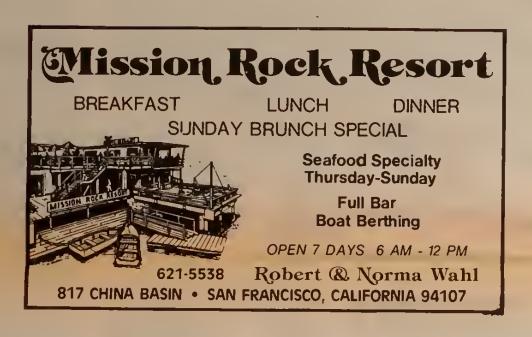
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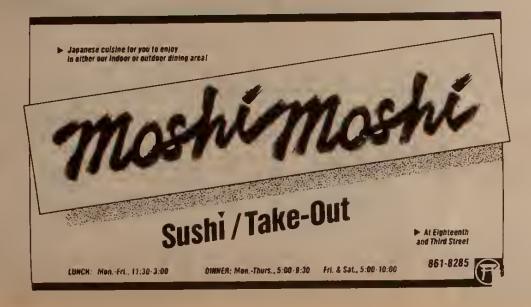
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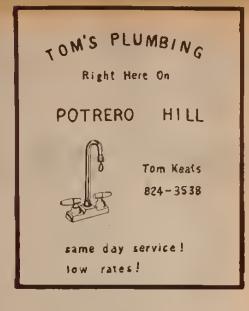
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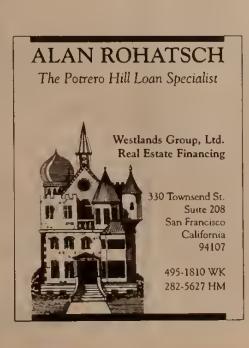
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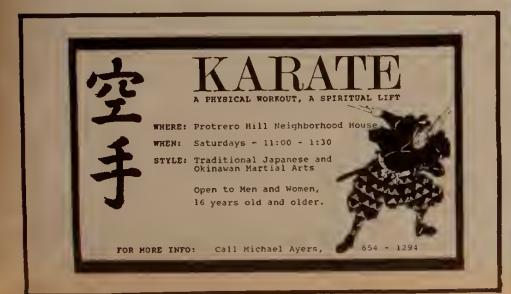
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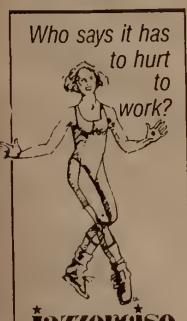
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